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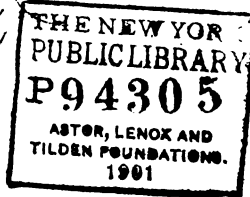


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**MR. GREENE'S ORATION**

ON THE

**LIFE AND CHARACTER**

OF

**JOHN QUINCY ADAMS,**

**BEFORE THE BAR OF HAMILTON COUNTY.**

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Cincinnati Chronicle Print.



AN ORATION  
ON THE  
LIFE AND CHARACTER  
OF  
JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

DELIVERED AT CINCINNATI,

25 MARCH, 1848,

BEFORE THE BAR OF HAMILTON COUNTY,

AT THEIR REQUEST.

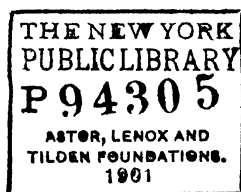
BY WILLIAM GREENE.

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CINCINNATI:  
1848.

*La*

BING NO. 8872 / 4





CINCINNATI, April 5, 1848.

WILLIAM GREENE, Esq:

*Dear Sir:*—On behalf of the Committee of the Bar of Hamilton County, appointed to conduct the proceedings which it was thought just and proper to take in honor of the memory of John Quincy Adams, and upon the earnest suggestion of many Members of the Bar, who had the gratification of hearing your discourse, commemorative of the public life and services of that distinguished man, I beg you to furnish a copy of the Discourse for publication.

Allow me also to express, in behalf of the Committee, and of your brethren of the Bar generally, our acknowledgments to you for the promptness with which you undertook the duty which was, by common consent, assigned to you; and for the discrimination, judgment, truth and eloquence with which you discharged it.

I am, very respectfully,

Yours, &c.,

CHARLES L. TELFORD.

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CINCINNATI, April 8, 1848.

CHARLES L. TELFORD, Esq.

*Dear Sir:*—I have been this morning favoured with your valued letter of the 5th inst., communicating the wish of the Committee, and many members of the Bar of Hamilton County, that I would furnish them, for publication, a copy of the Discourse delivered by me at their instance, on the 25th ult., commemorative of the life and services of John Quincy Adams. With unfeigned diffidence, I comply with the request, and beg to express my acknowledgments for the kind terms in which you have communicated it.

With great respect,

Your friend and servant,

W. GREENE.



## ORATION.

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THE spontaneous uprising of a whole people, to render homage to a single man, is a rare occurrence in the history of nations. On the occasion that has brought us here, it is a proof that a great and good man has departed from among us. The voice of mourning has come forth from all quarters and classes of our country, with the earnest, heart-felt inquiry, what shall best be done, that due honor may be paid, to the statesman, the jurist, the scholar, and the man, whom the world has lost. And thus the highest eulogy has already been pronounced — the most distinguishing honor has already been paid, to the memory and character of the illustrious dead. The highest eulogy is a universal acknowledgment of virtuous desert — the most distinguishing honor, the homage which that acknowledgment spontaneously suggests and universally accords.

By the flattering invitation of my brethren of the Bar of this county, I am to speak of the life and character of JOHN QUINCY ADAMS. I come to the work under a solemn sense of the responsibility of the undertaking, and with a deep and humbling consciousness of my inability to do it justice. It is a work from which the very ablest minds might shrink. Indeed, I should regard that man, however able, as least fit to venture upon it, whose knowledge of his subject was so imperfect, as not to have taught him, that to treat it properly, is beyond the reach of any human strength.

I am to speak of a man, whose active connection with our national affairs, comprises a period of nearly sixty years: whose comprehensive mind, through all that time, has largely contributed to unfold and apply the great principles of our government; and whose lofty independence and uncompromi-

sing virtue have done more than those of almost any other one man, to breathe into our system that high moral tone, which has kept its vital purity untouched and uncorrupted, in spite of all the tendencies of political changes to weaken or undermine it. I am to speak of a man, whose services to his generation have been as various as they have been unintermitted: whose performance of them has always been complete, in proportion to the occasions which demanded them; and whose long life, it may almost literally be said, has reached its limit, without leaving a duty unperformed, even to the last day of consciousness. In speaking of such a life, all mere verbal panegyric becomes insignificant and feeble before the eulogy which itself pronounces.

The town of Braintree (now Quincy) in the State of Massachusetts, on the 11th of July, 1767, had the honour of the birth of John Quincy Adams. Some six or seven years after the event from which his father dated the birth of American Independence—the celebrated and never to be forgotten speech of James Otis against writs of assistance—and some seven or eight years before the first gun was fired at Lexington, which insured that Independence a triumphant establishment—almost at the exact middle point between the earliest suggestion of the idea of our nation's freedom, and the final consummation of it—the now deceased Patriot first breathed the breath of life. Bright, indeed, and auspicious, was the commencement of the earthly pilgrimage of the man, whose first sunlight was halloed by the struggles it witnessed, of human liberty, and whose destiny was, in never ceasing labours through a long life of eighty years, to help to perpetuate the glories which those struggles so successfully achieved!

During the first eleven years of his life, the fostering care of a rarely gifted mother laid the foundation of that extraordinary character, which, in all its varieties of development and use, has shed so much honour on our country and our age. Thanks to the maternal care and culture, to whose early trainings in the ways of virtue, integrity and truth, the world owes so large a debt, in the examples and lessons of the life whose end we now mourn!

At the age of eleven years, the mother's peculiar care ceased; not, however, to the disadvantage of a mind and character which she had so completely fitted for the advanced training of a larger sphere of study. The city of Paris, under his gifted father's guidance, was now the place of an eighteen months' residence and culture. At the end of that period, he accompanied his father home. In three months they returned again to Europe, where the son remained at school in Paris, Amsterdam and Leyden, until in 1781, at the age of fourteen years, he accompanied Francis Dana, our first Minister to Russia, in the capacity of Private Secretary. After a year's residence at St. Petersburg, he rejoined his Father in Holland, from which country they went to Paris in 1783, during which year the treaty with England was negotiated which finally settled the question of independence between America and the mother country. The son continued with the father in Europe until 1785. In that year, returning to America, he entered the Junior Class of Harvard University, and graduating in due course in 1787, he, at once, at the age of twenty, commenced the study of the Law with the celebrated Theophilus Parsons of Newburyport. At the termination of his legal studies, he commenced the practice of the Law in Boston, in which he remained for four years; during which period, he manifested such remarkable and statesmanlike abilities by his political writings, as to attract the particular attention of the national government with Washington at its head; who conferred upon him in May, 1794, the office of Minister Resident to the Netherlands. In May, 1796, he was commissioned by Washington to a full mission at the court of Lisbon, and in May, 1797, by his father, at the court of Berlin. During his residence there, he was specially commissioned to negotiate a treaty of amity and commerce with the king of Sweden; and in 1801, on the retirement of his father from the Presidency, under the influence of a delicacy which the strongly expressed wishes of Mr. Jefferson were unable to overcome, he solicited and received his re-call; and in September of the last mentioned year, returned a private citizen to his native land. During the following year, he was elected to the Senate of Massachusetts, and by the Legislature of that State to the

Senate of the United States for the term of six years from the 4th of March, 1803. During this period he was appointed Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard, and delivered regular courses of Lectures during the recesses of Congress. In 1808, in consequence of the disapprobation of his constituents of his vote on the Embargo question, he resigned his seat in the Senate, and became again a private citizen. In 1809, he was appointed by Mr. Madison, Minister to Russia. While there, he received a commission as Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States which he declined. He remained in Russia, until his appointment to the commission which, at Ghent, negotiated the Treaty that terminated the war with England, of 1812. He was then appointed Minister to England, where he continued until 1817, when he was called to the State Department by President Monroe. In this office he remained until his election to the Presidency in 1825. At the close of his Presidential term in 1829, he became again a private citizen, and so continued till his election in 1830 to the House of Representatives of the United States from his native District, in which office he remained, without intermission for seventeen years, until his death.

Thus, from the period of 1794 to the present year 1848, with but three short intervals, Mr. Adams was in the public service. Thus, for fifty-four years, his name has been identified with the domestic and foreign relations of our country; filling stations of the highest responsibility; performing duties of the most momentous trust; and so performing them, as that now, in that long retrospect, a whole nation, without distinction of party, class, sex or age, pronounces a verdict of confidence, reverence and honour, such as has been awarded to but few men in the world's whole history, and such as must secure to his name and character the highest eulogy, in our own country's annals, through all coming time.

The consequence of a public man is often estimated, more by the offices he has held, than by the manner in which he has performed the duties of them. Success in a career of public confidence is regarded, and properly regarded, as proof of merit in the subject of it. Unfortunately, however, in the experi-

ence of elective forms of government, as of others, the reality does not always correspond with the indication; and the ignorant and unworthy are often found filling the places, from which the wise and virtuous have been excluded. The laws of party association under the elective system, which too often point to men to do a party work, instead of a useful service to their country, are frequently too strong for the virtue which would reject a candidate because he was unqualified. Hence demagogues are often found in the highest trusts of power, and are continued there in spite of their unworthiness, because their identity with the party system to which they owe their elevation, renders them indispensable to its support.

Not of the category here presented, was the man John Quincy Adams. His eulogy is, not in the offices he held for more than fifty years, but in the works which those offices gave him the opportunity to do. His success was not in reaching the highest honours which the world could give him, but in the good he performed to make those honours appropriately his. His glory is, not that he was President of the United States, but that the deeds he did outshone in splendor the station which enabled him to do them.

It is to the character of Mr. Adams, illustrated by the life whose summary I have briefly given, that I would invite particular attention in the further progress of this discourse. I shall speak of him, as a Statesman, as a Jurist, as a Scholar, and as a Man; and first as a Statesman.

The circumstances of Mr. Adams' early life, were eminently fitted to form his character and tastes for a career of politics. The courts of Europe were the schools of his boyhood; the good or evil experience of which he would learn wisely to improve, under the guidance and advice of the first statesmen of the age. The science of Government and the policy of Administration, thus entered largely into the growth and formation of his early mind — impressing it with an intelligence and imbuing it with a spirit which could not fail to prepare him for the future high vocation to which his destiny directed him. But in addition to these advantages of intellectual culture in the great business of politics, his constant association with the

best men gave him a moral enlargement, which formed the vital element of his character in his whole subsequent career. This it was that controlled, directed and informed all the energies of his mind, and gave him that eminent success in his long and varied course, which, though doubtless occasionally marked by imperfections of judgment, has left his honour without a stain.

It is an enquiry of the deepest interest to us, especially as illustrated by the career of Mr. Adams, what elements constitute the true American statesman? The enquiry is properly answered by a reference to the theory of our government. That theory supposes perfect integrity, justice and truth in every act of administration; integrity, in every individual who participates in the exercise of power: justice, towards those, whether at home or abroad, native or foreign, individuals or nations, who are the subjects of it: and truth, towards those eternal principles of abstract right, without which government is a mockery, and rulers only the ministers of sin.

The *integrity* of which I speak, excludes all selfish aggrandizement as the aim of political advancement; and holds the supreme public good as the exclusive end of individual political ambition. It places the man of power upon the responsibility that he has been chosen to a trust to perform its labours in the sentiment of duty. It restricts the great doctrine of appointment and suffrage, to the selection of men to office, not because they desire to serve, but because their services are believed to be important to the public good. It condemns the whole idea of reward for partizan devotion; not that this devotion should be a bar to claims for office; but that these claims have no proper foundation, except in moral and intellectual fitness.

The *justice* of which I speak, will never take where it is not entitled, and will always give where it is bound. It applies as well to nations as to individuals — and what would be wrong in the last, can never, by any difference of position, be made right in the first. Power, whether national or individual, when controlled and informed by this principle of justice, is powerless to do wrong; and is equally efficient and certain to do right, whatever the weakness with which it deals, when the appeal



of injury and oppression is endorsed by the proper testimonials of its claims. Before this high principle of justice, no possession won from ignorance by diplomatic art, or wrung from weakness by the arrogance of power, can be advocated for a moment in a Court of Virtue, or receive an instant's support in the good word of an honourable man. And applying this great principle to the moral polity of nations, he who by mere diplomatic skill carries a point to which perfect fairness does not entitle the nation he represents, or he, who, by the sword, in the mere lust of conquest, seizes what by universal assent belongs to the power with which he is contending, no matter how high the laudations of genius in the one case, or of chivalry or bravery in the other, must, in the act itself, before Heaven be regarded as a minister of wrong.

The *truth* of which I speak, is the great central principle — the very heart — of all legitimate government. It expresses the whole idea of the rights of man. It is peculiarly the foundation of our theory of government. The Declaration of Independence proclaims it, when it declares all men to be by nature free and equal. It recognises every being, bearing the human form, of whatever race, colour, or intelligence, as a child of the Omnipotent — equally the subject of his care — equally responsible to his government, and equally destined to that final judgment of all men, which shall show no respect of persons. Rational freedom, whether moral, intellectual, or personal, is the first and highest form, in which truth in government is bodied forth. Our theory contemplates this freedom in its largest sense, — and if, in practice, it shall be found not to be fully carried out, our system is so far a departure from the platform on which it professes to stand. To say that there are exceptions to the rule, is to substitute heathen speculation for Christian law; and to adopt such exceptions in the administration of our government, would be to vindicate arbitrary human conventions, against the everlasting and unchanging ordinances of God.

These three great elements then, integrity, justice, and truth as suggested by the theory of American Institutions, must be regarded as indispensable to the character of the true American

**Statesman.** And when to these we add, the educated mind that penetrates the depths of the philosophy of government, and the large experience that applies that philosophy to its appropriate ends for human good, we have the character complete. And in the whole wide range of history, whether of ancient or modern times, of whom can it be said that these qualities of the statesman were united in a higher degree than in John Quincy Adams? His whole history exhibits unceasing proof that he possessed and illustrated them all;— and the universal mind of this great nation, this day heartily responds to the declaration which that history gives.

In a life so long, in a career so varied, connected with events so numerous and important, it would have been more than human, that he should have made no mistakes. The wonder is, that he should have made so few.\* It would have been equally more than human, in such a career as his, that, in his relations to the world around him, he should have escaped entirely the obloquy of party hostility, and the envy of rival competition. It has been the fate of great men, in all times, to be misunderstood by ignorance, and misrepresented by malice; and until man is changed, the experience of the past in this respect, must be the experience of the future. The virulence of party prejudice spares no victim which refuses obedience to its behests; and the desolating, proscribing spirit of party opposition, spares no man, however exalted in purity, who stands in the way of its success. There are two relieving thoughts, however, to this sad condition of our race. The first is, that attacks upon men in high position, however unjust and apparently malevolent, are, in fact, only modes by which contending parties carry on their warfare; and not, veritably and truly, permanently designed, against the men themselves. The second thought is suggested by the first; that when the events which occasioned such attacks have become history, and the passions that attended them have passed away, the judgment of the world separates the men from the events; and however the latter may still be condemned, pronounces upon the former according to their appropriate deserts. No men, in all our history, were more malignèd during their career as

\*See Note.

statesmen, than George Washington, John Jay, and Alexander Hamilton; and yet, now, what man would be tolerated for an instant, in a word of disrespect to the memory of either? The name of John Quincy Adams is now added to that list.

The character of Mr. Adams as a Statesman, in the actual details of official duty, was as remarkable in its particular developments, as his whole career was for its general excellence. Whether as Minister abroad, Secretary at home, President of the United States, or Member of Congress, he was never found wanting in the gifts that were properly suited to his place. His exact and laborious attention to the duties of his station, was proverbial. It was always certain that whatever he undertook he would perform. Persevering industry entered into all his purposes, and inflexible determination overcame all obstacles in their accomplishment. He never heeded the suggestions of repose when a work was to be done, and he was to do it. This fact at once expresses and accounts for the singularly marked history of his public life; in which he worked so long, did so much, and did every thing so well. The history of most men is marked by love of ease. The habits have not been formed that would overcome it; and hence, so much in life that ought to be done, that is wholly omitted, and so much that is attempted, that is only half performed. And hence, again, the reason that there are so few men like John Quincy Adams.

As a Minister abroad and as Secretary of State, his official correspondence for long years, brought him into contact, and often collision, with the first minds of the age. He was always found equal to the occasions that called forth his powers. He felt, thought, and wrote, as a Christian Statesman. He never lacked the intelligence to supply him with the proper materials for the argument, nor the reasoning power to make the argument efficient for its purpose. But above all, there prevailed through all his diplomatic papers that high moral tone, which, while he always showed the spirit, and exerted the power, to claim and enforce what was right, never permitted him to violate his duty to himself, by claiming or enforcing what he knew to be wrong. The hacknied declaration, almost meaningless nowadays, of demanding only what was right and submitting to

nothing that is wrong, was, with him, a thing not merely to be *said*, but to be *done*.

As President of the United States, his views of what belonged to the true interests of his country, were as comprehensive, as his intelligence of these interests, was universal. In his construction and application of constitutional power, he thought more of the practical good to which it could be made subservial, than of the metaphysical refinements, which, in matters of the highest public interest, might make the constitution mere waste paper. He regarded our complex system of government not as a mere chaos of conflicting elements, to defeat the ends of its creation, but as a sensible adjustment of harmonious principles to promote them. When he thought of roads, rivers and harbour improvements, he thought of them as useful aids to accomplish the objects for which the government was instituted, viz: the suitable development of a great nation's energies, and, therein the promotion of the true progress of a great people. He thought what *ought* to be done, to do great good — not what *might* be done, to prevent it. His mind was animated by the true spirit of growth that would carry his country onward; and not by the unprofitable spirit of technical contests about power, that would keep his country back. He would do the good thing, and *therein* prove that he had the power to do it.

In his appointments to office, his enquiry was, not how much service a *partizan* had rendered, but how much capacity and virtue a *man* possessed — and his commission was conferred, not upon the one who claimed a reward for his own account but upon the one, whom the country wanted because of his ability to do the country's work. He never removed a man from office, but for some cause connected with the performance of its duties; and then he was as firm in making the needful change, as, in other cases, he was disinterested, in continuing men in office, however strongly they may have been personally or politically opposed to him. He regarded the power of appointment as a sacred trust, to be exercised exclusively for the people who confided it to him; and in the exercise of which any intermixing of his private feelings or interests, would have

been a usurpation of power, instead of a constitutional dispensation of it.

In appointments belonging to subordinate departments of the Government, though the heads of these were entirely dependent upon him, if he suggested a preference in favour of a particular candidate, in a given case, the favourable response to it, if haply it were given, was a favour granted to his request, not an act done in compliance with his command:— and if perchance the response were unfavourable, instead of removing the non-complying functionary for opposing the President's wishes, that functionary, in his estimation, but added another proof of his fitness for his place, that he acted without fear of vengeance from the President's power.

As a member of Congress, during the last seventeen years of his life, though always a decided Whig, he never spoke or acted on mere party grounds. He knew as well how to make exceptions as how to follow rules. The spirit of integrity that pointed him to the right as a lover of his country, spurned the trammels that would bind him to a wrong as the follower of a party. His keen perception of what was fit and proper, and what not, in a matter that beckoned his support, quickly scented the error, if such there were, that would bribe the uprightness of the man to do the dishonourable office of the harnessed partizan. Hence his speeches and his votes, for or against measures, were because he thought them right or wrong; and thus, in all measures of party movement to which he accorded his assent, it might be truly said, not that he was of his *party* but that his party was of *him*. It would follow from this that Mr. Adams, on the floor of Congress would make but an unsatisfactory party leader. He could not make the necessary compromises to render him reliable for all occasions of a party system. But if he could not lead, he could hold in check; and if he might not direct the course of the ship of state in her ordinary voyage, he was always ready in emergency, for the higher service of saving her from the perils of a storm.

His position as a member of the House of Representatives was, without doubt, the most useful of any part of his career. Incidents of the highest moment in the development of our

system, have marked the history of the country for the last twenty years. Organized as parties have been during that period, occasions have arisen in which things might not be done as part of a party system, however intrinsically right, from a slavish fear, that some present inclination of unmatured popular opinion might lead to disastrous results to party power. Such occasions have required a man, who was wise enough to understand the truth, upright enough to be governed by it, and bold enough to speak it:—a man, who would distinguish between the temporary triumph of a falsehood, for a present advantage, and the lasting victory of a truth, for a permanent one; who could see in the first, the ephemeral influence of a passing passion, and in the last, the solid power of enduring virtue; and who, acting upon these distinctions, would cheerfully resign himself to temporary obloquy as the consequence of a present defence of truth, leaving to the unimpassioned judgment of the future, to do him final justice, by declaring that he was right. Such a man was found in John Quincy Adams. The heart, now cold, was warmed by every demand upon its sympathies, which was permitted to find its way into that House. The spirit, now departed, was fired in the cause of human right whenever it petitioned for an advocate within the walls of that Capitol. The voice now silent, was heard in thunder tones that shook this continent, when the story of down trodden human freedom required a full grown man, to vindicate its privilege of being heard, before that assembled majesty of the nation.

In that crowning act of Mr. Adams' political career,—his defence of surpassing power, of the unrestricted right of petition on the floor of Congress — there was the Genius of the American Revolution, waked up from sleep, to renew its vows in vindication of a great central principle of liberty: there was the Spirit of Seventy-six, gone away awhile to Heaven with the Revolutionary Fathers, now come back again to earth, to renew its battles in the cause of American Independence. Felicitous, indeed! most fitly appropriate to such an occasion, was the embodiment of that Genius and that Spirit in a man whose earliest aspirations were associated with their own

morning glories; whose heart was still burning with the fires, which, for seventy years, he had kept brightly blazing on their altars; whose moral courage was equal to the work which they gave to him to do, in spite of any opposition, however threatening, which earth might raise against him; and the moral influence of whose character fixed such a seal upon his triumph, as that no recreancy shall dare to touch it, and no tyranny have power to break it, through all future time!

Closely allied to the character of the Statesman is that of the JURIST. Indeed, the first character is incomplete unless grounded upon and informed by the high cultivation of the last. Mr. Adams' connection with the bar proper, was of but short duration; and the best part of the four years that comprehended it, was devoted to studies, and passed in pursuits, which belonged more to the whole country than to a part of it. Not that he would have failed of eminent success in the ordinary walks of local jurisprudence; but that his habits, tastes and aspirations had aims beyond them. That he was a thoroughly read lawyer, was a necessary part of his early and preparatory culture. That he was a thoroughly accomplished statesman, was a proof that he was a thoroughly read lawyer; and not to regard such a man as a member of the profession, would be to make the enlargement of its sphere of action, separate it from the excellence which is its highest glory, and dissociate it from the fame which is its highest earthly reward. Honoured then, thrice honoured be the profession, that has sent forth from its bosom a man, so distinguished for the profoundness of his learning, and given to eulogy a name, by which, in all time, an age will be distinguished! Honoured, thrice honoured be the profession, which has given to the world a Representative, whose practice was so eminent and upright, not, to be sure, at the bar of Massachusetts; nor yet at the higher bar of the capital of our Union; but at the bar of the civilized world, where millions were the stake, and nations the clients!

The science of jurisprudence is as applicable to nations as to individuals—to whole communities as to single members of them. Whether the one or the other be its object, its essential constitution is the philosophy of human rights and obligations,

ascertained by the experience of ages, and put into form by the wisdom of the learned. Of this science, in the larger applications of it, few men were more profoundly studied than Mr. Adams. In the department of the Law of Nations, his Diplomatic papers are often instructive treatises; and no American Lawyer should consider his education as complete, who has not read and mastered them. Books on *Nisi Prius*, may give all the learning that is necessary to a successful practice in ordinary litigation between man and man; but books and learning of quite another sort, belong to that larger range of the lawyer's duty, which embraces the international relations of the world within its sphere.

That deeper study of Jurisprudence which looks beyond the fee, is the proper glory of the Jurist, who feels that he has an intellect to care for, and a soul to save, as well as a body to clothe and feed. The temporary acquisition which the wants of physical life make needful, is well and right; but this is too often permitted to quench the fire of that ambition which looks to the largest usefulness as its highest aim, and to that intellectual culture, which is indispensable to the attainment of the means to make certain its accomplishment. In this respect Mr. Adams' career was an example to every lawyer; and in all respects — in the lesson of industry which his whole life inculcated; in the teachings of integrity and fairness of which his writings are full; in the earnest seekings after the truth with which his correspondence, his speeches, his orations and his arguments abound, a model of excellence is presented of which but few parallels may be found in history, and which every Jurist and Statesman may well feel proud to follow.

As a SCHOLAR, Mr. Adams' standing was among the first. In whatever came within the range of literature or science, he seemed always to be a master. No subject seemed too large for his ready grasp—none too minute for his critical attention. He was a Poet, Philosopher, Orator and Writer. His knowledge of the classic tongues was as perfect as that of his vernacular; and he wielded the literature which they embody as though he had been cotemporary with it. He had a profound reverence for the learning and wisdom of the



ancients, and drank deeply and constantly of their teachings. He had no sympathy with the disposition, quite too common, to undervalue them. He was accustomed to estimate their attainments by the standard of their age; and the authority of the truths they uttered and the sound philosophy they taught, was not the less revered by him, that they did not exist a couple of thousand years later than they did. The truths of Homer and of Hesiod, of Æschylus and Sophocles were not the less truths to him, that they were uttered in an age of heathen darkness; and not the less deserving of careful study, that they were revealed in poetic forms. So of the Philosophers of that beautiful olden time of Greece — though the lapse of centuries has brought — each century its addition — to the great magazine of human knowledge; and though wisdom sheds forth its light through a Christian instead of a heathen medium, it could not escape him, and no philosopher who venerates the truth can overlook the fact, that our modern libraries would be without their Bacons and their Johnsons, had there been no Platos or Aristotles in the world before them.

In the meagre Roman literature that preceded the Augustan age, Cicero was the great model of Mr. Adams. The life of the ancient statesman, as of the modern, was one of persevering toil. His whole career was a series of virtuous triumphs to his character. His ambition was of the highest kind, and the highest dignities rewarded it. He was the life and informing spirit of the virtuous of Rome for nearly forty years. His orations are among the grandest specimens of human genius, and his philosophical writings among the proudest achievements of human wisdom. His virtues and his powers were worthy of saving a thousand States; but — a melancholy reflection to all thinking men, and teaching a lesson which all should learn, whether thinking or unthinking — *the honest credulity of the people, deluded to their ruin by the arts of aspiring and corrupt leaders*, prevented his, permanently, saving one.

With such a model, it is not surprising, that such a man as Mr. Adams should have been enamoured; and those who have carefully observed, or learned, the career of the modern

statesman, can hardly fail to perceive in it, a striking parallel with that of the ancient;—so that a double eulogy is pronounced, in the mention of their honoured names together.

The scholarship of Mr. Adams was entirely unpretending. He was wise as well as learned, and valued knowledge for its fruits. True, in whatever of literary effort he undertook, the attainments he exhibited always met the demands of the occasion. But they served as illustrations for others, not as displays for himself. Besides being a very modest man, his mind was full of its own generalizations; and hence, it was natural for him to speak his own thoughts rather than those of others. The mere shew of learning, is, in effect, but the speaking of other people's thoughts, or the relation of facts which any body may know as well. Every one may learn, but few become wise by thinking for themselves. This may be said of all *true* learning. But there is, besides, an *ignorance*, mis-called learning, which ages have accumulated in countless volumes, to darken and enslave the mind, as well as a true knowledge to enlighten and make it free; and every one, as occasion may be, must think out for himself, his own discriminations between the two, if he would know as well how *not* to acquire or be misled by the one, as how to gain and properly improve the other.

The leading characteristic of Mr. Adams' written style was earnestness. The whole man seems bent upon telling, what he is telling, truly. His language and illustrations are, occasionally, in a high degree ornate. But the flowers that come upon him, come by the way; come of their own accord, and from a sort of sympathy which creates them without his knowledge. His mind is evidently thinking of something else, than mere words and sentences. If there be precision in the one, or beauty in the other, it is because his mind can go forth in no other form. Deeply imbued with the exactness of truth, and the spirit of beauty, his style would naturally partake of these qualities without effort, and even against it. His perception of the beautiful was as delicate as his appreciation of the true; and his distinction in both, had its proper origin in the unbroken action of his mind in the sphere of ele-

vated thought. No mean topic ever gained entrance to his mind, and no mean word ever fell from his pen or was uttered by his lips.

In reference to his oratorical abilities, I would distinguish between his written orations and his extemporaneous speeches. The first are models of that class of literary labour; the last are remarkable only for the earnestness which possessed his whole character. The first remind us of Cicero, as probably would the last, if any thing were left us of Cicero that had not been written out by his own hand. The reason of the distinction between Mr. Adams' written and extemporaneous efforts is quite obvious. The greater part of his life had been devoted to writing; but a very small part comparatively to speaking. He was a master in the art of oratory—extemporaneous as well as written; but it is practice only, that can make the master in any art, a living illustration of his own lessons.

In conversation, Mr. Adams' powers were unsurpassed; not merely in the range of topics and his universal knowledge connected with them, but in his manner of discussing them. His manner was deliberate without being cold — reserved without being repulsive. He talked like one who felt that he was fulfilling a responsibility; and yet there was nothing of the stiffness that indicated labour, nor of the formality of phrase which too frequently converts the talker into the speaker. His conversation was never obtrusive, but always ready. He would answer any call made upon him by any honest enquirer after truth; and no matter what the subject, the rock was never struck that streams of wisdom did not flow forth from it. His colloquial style was simple and lucid because unstudied. It was beautiful, because so rich and pure a mind could exhibit itself only in its natural dress. If he had learning to impart, it was because, he would present his thought with the appropriate illustration; but the vanity of mere attainment never offended a companion, by displays in any form of pedantry.

As a MAN, Mr. Adams was pre-eminent in both the private and the social virtues. His character was founded in a deep religious faith, and his thoughts, words and actions were habitually subordinated to the sense of religious accountability. His

views of Christianity were altogether independent of any mere formula of doctrine. Always referring to the Christian standard as authoritative upon his motives, his actions were the issues, rather of the heart that felt, than of the head that thought. Dogmas, with him, were the speculative inferences of intellectual investigation; the duties of life had a deeper significance in their alliance with the sentiments of the soul.

In his intercourse with men, he was never so forgetful of himself as not to remember the respect that was properly due to others. Though the centre of every circle in which he moved, and the oracle of every association with which he was connected, no mark of conscious superiority ever stood out upon his teachings—no display of vanity ever appeared, to weaken the force with which he uttered them. He never claimed anything from station. Though born, educated, and, through life, associated, with the most exalted, he was ever the humblest of the humble; and in this, he illustrated one of the most beautiful truths in character:—that those who least claim the *show* of respect, are, generally most entitled to the *reality* of it, and, I may add, most generally receive it. The tinsel outside drapery of life with which his positions more or less connected him, and which swells the self estimation of most men, had no charms for him. The trappings of the palace were matters to be submitted to; not desired or vainly estimated. They were things of state; and to be thought of, only as things that perish in the using.

In the exercise of power in office, he never forgot that it was not his own, but only a trust committed to him, by and in behalf of others, and for their exclusive use. Hence power with him was only an incident of duty; to be exercised, not for himself, but for the ends for which he held it. It must be a fearful thing to hold, as it were, the political destinies of a nation in one's hand, as does the President of the United States! Fearful! lest the love of displaying power, for the sake of vanity, be stronger than that of suppressing it, for the sake of justice. There are but few in high position of any sort, who are willing to forego the present opportunity of exercising their power over others, for the future glory of having shown themselves

above the temptations of it. Most men had rather be talked about and, felt, *now*, for wealth and influence, than remembered hereafter, for the virtue which should have made these advantages blessings of Providence to many, rather than ministers of vanity to a few. Mr. Adams' humility, like Washington's, made him an eminent exception to this rule.

Humble however as was that great spirit, it was not without a becoming and ample measure of the pride which is the proper companion of humility. An intense self respect was the presiding genius in all his intercourse with life; and while he never infringed upon the rights of others, he never failed to vindicate the honour which was the central principle of his own. In whatever position of his long career he found himself the object of attack, his ever ready pen or voice was instant, in exposing its injustice, and sometimes terrible in its inflictions upon the temerity that dared to make it.

Quick, however, and ardent, as was the temperament which came with such power in aid of self respect to chastise insolence, equally quick and ardent was the feeling of forgiveness that always attended the acknowledgment of wrong. In the very storm of passion, lashed into fury by unprovoked injustice, the amiable spirit would peer out in the very midst, on the first appearance of honourable concession. The hurricane might have done some mischief, but the bow that after it rested on the sky, made it all to be forgotten.

Mr. Adams could never have fought a duel, or given his countenance to one. His honour was in the keeping of his own consciousness, and quite too sacred a thing to commit to the keeping of the world around him. Courage with him was a *virtue*, to be exercised in overcoming trials, not a *vice*, to be instrumental in promoting evil passions. It was a *cool* virtue, designed to prescribe *limits* to indulgence, not to stimulate license to it. Instant resentment of injury was natural on the principle of self defence, but deliberate revenge was unnatural because not necessary to it. His opinion as to what was right in such a matter, was between himself and his own sense of moral obligation; and not between himself and a third party, viz: the world, which could have no claims upon him, in

that regard, except so far as he might acknowledge them. His courage was of the kind that emboldened him, on all occasions, to do what he believed to be his duty, not of the kind that would yield to a false public opinion, that would require him to violate it. Besides, life with him, was a thing not to be trifled with. It was not given by him, and he had no right to take it away, either from himself or from his fellow. He never could forget the eternal law of right, and could therefore never submit himself to the government of any conventional law of wrong.

In his personal bearing, Mr. Adams was eminently plain and unostentatious. He felt that however his attainments and his virtues might procure him the respect and deference of others, they yet gave him no superior rights over his fellow men as his inferiors. Every other man was born, equally with himself, to the same natural rights of earth, air, light, and water; and however much others may have been wanting in the qualities that distinguished *him*, that deficiency gave him no right to trample upon *them*. His power was not in their weakness, but in his own strength. His influence to protect and defend others, was the necessary incident of his ability to do so; not the effect of their condition that required it. Thus was Mr. Adams, in the truest sense, a Democrat—and being so in fact, he was never heard to make professions of it. Having the reality of the character, he had no occasion for the sham; and while he steadily acted it out, in all the relations of his life, he left to others, who were deficient in the fact, to supply the absence of it, by substituting the profession for the practice.

Mr. Adams' habits of life were proverbially exact. He did every thing by system; and therefore, every thing he undertook to do, he did completely. He never forgot his appointments; because his system required that he should always remember them. No man ever lost time in waiting for him. If he had lived for this lesson alone, his service to his race would have been worth the life and should have immortalized it. The miserable, time-killing, business-murdering maxim, that "it is eleven until it is twelve," had no countenance from

him; and he would lose the hour in waiting for others, rather than afford them, by following their example, the poor apology that his own fault in common with theirs had justified their delinquency.

Mr. Adams was exact in the divisions of his time; and in their appropriation to specific objects. He rose before day, the year round. He had an hour for exercise, for company, for miscellaneous reading, for devotion, and for amusement; and the duties of one hour were never permitted to interfere with those of another. His precise arrangement in this particular was never interrupted by any change in his official stations. The duties of these had their proper assignment of time, as occasion might suggest. While Secretary of State, notwithstanding the multiplicity, difficulty and vast responsibility of his duties, he never permitted another to do what he could perform himself. His instructions to Ministers abroad, his correspondence with Foreign Ministers at home, and his Reports to Congress, were all written out with his own hand. The time that was leisure to him from the range of appointments which his system prescribed, and from his official duties, was appropriated to the composition of his Diary, to the making of his own almanacs, to calculations in Astronomy, to the study of the natural sciences and of general Literature; and at proper seasons of the year, he was seen at early morn, traversing the woods and meadows in pursuit of botanical, mineralogical and other scientific specimens, which he would carry home in his pockets for the young ladies of his family to classify, arrange and copy. All this exhibits a life of Herculean labour; and explains the vastness of his intellectual acquisitions, as well as the amazing variety of them.

His habits in the particulars referred to, were never intermitted. They lasted to his dying day; and making his life a unit by unbroken continuity, there remained with them, in extreme old age, the freshness of his early years, and the unimpaired tenacity of all his faculties of mind. But his Herculean labours were not hard work. They were his life, and he could not have lived without them. They were his happiness; and having become a second nature to him by

force of the habits that made them easy, he could no more have dispensed with them, than most people could have performed them. Hence, a most encouraging lesson to all who would learn from such a character, viz: that good habits, once thoroughly formed, are as hard to dispense with as bad ones. Another lesson still: that to every man, life may be made a really serious and earnest thing, if he chooses to make it so; instead of an occasion for trifling and folly, in mockery of the God that gave it. As Mr. Adams lived, so should all men live; and so all men could, if they would.

I have said that Mr. Adams was born and educated among the most exalted. Happy for himself, happy for his country and his age that he was so. But not so happy would it have been with most men. It is not common for the children of the rich and the renowned, to perpetuate the wealth and the honours of their fathers. There is a vanity that puffs up in such cases, much more prevalent in the world, than the good sense which discerns the value of opportunity, and the high principle which suggests and directs to the cultivation of it. What was the making of Mr. Adams, would have been the spoiling of ninety-nine out of a hundred in a similar situation. He had genius enough to make him the fit recipient of the influences that surrounded him, without the folly which would lead him to suppose that he might become a great man, without availing himself of them. The pride of his boyhood was, not that his father was one of the greatest of the great men of his time, but that the possession of such a father afforded him the means of profiting by a glorious example. The career of his manhood was, not in the vain assumption, that another's capital of honour, was, through him, perpetuating the glory of a family, but that his own deep consciousness of individual power, was leading him onward to the making of a glory of his own. The sublime assurance of his old age, that his time in this world had not been wasted, in honest effort to do that which should give added honour to a name, referred not to the fact, that a father had filled the Presidency before him, but, to that other fact, that himself had wrought out a career of usefulness and virtue, that had filled history with his acts, and



given assurance, that history would award to *him* the approbation, that properly belonged to them. If I am not mistaken, this is one of the most interesting features in the character of Mr. Adams. It presents, not merely opportunity improved, but temptation resisted: not merely powers cultivated and exercised, but the blandishments of ease and pleasure, which would have counselled an avoidance of labour, thoroughly eschewed. It was the triumph of virtue, over the tendencies that would have overcome it. It was the glorious outcoming of an exalted character, from the poisonous vanities that would have choked its early growth.

It is now but a little more than four years, since the great man of whom I have been speaking, was here, in our very midst. His journey to us through our State, was the triumphal march of Cicero from Brundisium to Rome. Every where in his progress, the old and the young, the rich and the poor, all classes and complexions, turned out to greet his coming. The offering was one of a generous and loving people, to a sage of near a century, whose character was at last appreciated, and felt by all to be entitled to honours without bounds. Time had been, when the spectacle of multitudes, assembled to do homage to a President, made no impression on his heart, because he knew, that respect for official station, might have no reference to the man. But now, it was for the man only, that those shouts went up to Heaven, and his emotions were unutterable. He felt, that his reputation was redeemed, from the obloquy that had so bitterly assailed the career of his middle years, and that his old age had finally found a refuge and a resting place, in those affections of the people which his services and virtues had so well earned.

He came a thousand miles at the age of seventy-six, at an inclement season of the year, at the very risk of life, to testify his interest in the cause of science. He came to assist in the foundation of a work, which the honour of the nation had associated with his hopes, for more than half his life. His deepest convictions were fixed, in the importance of the undertaking, and his deepest heart engaged, in the occasion which gave the opportunity of its fulfillment; and when, in spite of

the rains that descended, and the storm that howled around him, he had done the work which he came to do, his sublime exclamation was, that if, in coming generations, his posterity should be curious to learn the associations of his name in the history of his age, it was his hope, that the page which should record his laying of the corner stone of the Cincinnati Observatory, would be read with more pride and regarded with more honour, than that which should tell that he had been President of the Republic. Years on years shall roll away, generation after generation shall come and go, and the name recorded on that stone on yonder hill top, shall bear testimony to the man, to the virtues that made him great, and to his love of the glorious science which made him a companion of the stars!

A rare life, and a still rarer character, have been the subjects of our meditations and our eulogy. But it is the immutable, everlasting ordinance of God, that what is of earth in man, shall die. No exception of lofty character, unspotted virtue, or exalted usefulness, shall save a human being from the tomb; and he whose memory we now honour, in common with all who have gone before him of his race, has gone to his final rest; and the light of his manly presence has been extinguished from the world forever. His death was in keeping with his life. The one was devoted to his country, the other in his country's capitol, released the spirit from the bonds of earth. The place that witnessed his noblest deeds, crowned with glory the termination of them. One State of our glorious Union had the distinction of his birth: all America appropriately shared in the crowning distinction of his death. The day, too, most hallowed by a grateful people as the birth-day on earth of its ever honoured father, will hereafter be remembered, also, as the birth-day in Heaven, of its ever honoured son.

Full of years, full of virtues and full of honours, the portals of the grave have closed over all that is mortal of our deceased fellow citizen and friend; and no eye shall see him, no ear shall hear him, no voice shall greet him any more. Domestic affection, weeps the departure of the master of the household. The friendly circle, mourns the loss of the spirit which has so long

been its animating genius: the nation, so long honoured by his name, so long benefitted by his services, so long illustrated by his character, sheds honourable tears upon his grave. But the memory of the man goes not upon the bier that bears his body to its kindred dust. The services of the Statesman, the lessons of the Patriot Sage, the example of the Christian Man, shall remain still with us, in the ever enduring history that will record them;—and though that heart shall no longer warm us by its sympathies, that mind, no longer inform us by its counsel, and that voice no more rouse us to the work of duty, there still shall continue with us, and, through us, with coming generations, the bright memorial of one of Heaven's noblest works, which shall teach the value of a virtuous life and the final certainty of its rewards.

## NOTE.

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Mr. Adams' vote and speech upon the Embargo question in 1807, are frequently referred to, not merely as political mistakes, but as incidents, bearing upon the integrity of his public life, which it were desirable should be forgotten. A few words will show that this is utterly unjust.

As to the *vote*, Mr. Adams had his opinion and exercised it, as others did theirs, and as he had a right to do. Perhaps it was unwise; but I cannot understand on what principle it can be regarded as dishonest. True, he separated from his party; but this fact is quite as strong to prove his freedom from party shackles, as treason to his duty. It has been said that his vote was intended as an offering to Mr. Jefferson in the hope of office from him. This, however, is mere conjecture — more easily said than proved: — at any rate, he never received an office from Mr. Jefferson, though the latter remained in the Presidency more than a year after the vote was given. The fact is, a strong party feeling at the moment, embittered by disappointment, magnified an impeachment, perhaps well founded, of his judgment, into an attack upon his virtue; and on that ground the matter stands: — well enough, perhaps, for *party*, but not well enough for *truth*.

As to the *Speech*, the whole question has arisen on Col. Pickering's Report of it; the correctness of which, Mr. Adams, in express terms, denies. The words, as taken down by Col. Pickering, are these: — "The President has recommended the measure on his high responsibility; *I would not consider, I would not deliberate, I would act*. Doubtless the PRESIDENT possesses such further information as will justify the measure." Now, of this Report, Mr. Adams, in an appendix to a re-publication in the Baltimore Patriot of 1824, of his letter to Mr. Otis in 1808, defending his vote upon the Embargo question, uses the following language :

"It was impossible to have framed a charge more destitute of foundation; more easily refuted, or more open to the chastisement of severe retaliation, yet I took no particular notice of it, nor shall I now go further, beyond the simple declaration, *that I never expressed nor felt the sentiment* imputed to me by Mr. Pickering, than to observe that if I had uttered it and had been understood in the sense which he has given to my words, it was his duty and the duty of every Senator present, who so understood me, not only to have my words taken down at the time, but instantly to have called me to order for using them.

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"The error of Mr. Pickering's charge consists in his connecting my expression of confidence in the recommendation of the Executive, which I assigned as *one* of my reasons for agreeing to the act, with my argument from the necessity of dispatch which was founded in the nature of the act itself, and the portentous crisis of the times."

Now this language of Mr. Adams raises a direct issue—not of *veracity* but of *fact*—between him and Col. Pickering. On which of the two shall we rely? Col. Pickering, in the charge, or Mr. Adams in the denial of it? Unquestionably Mr. Adams in the denial of it. Their claims to confidence, as men who would speak the truth, must be admitted to be equal. But Mr. Adams speaks from *knowledge*—Col. Pickering from *impression*. The one has the certainty of consciousness and cannot be mistaken;—the other may have heard imperfectly, or not have comprehended the full force of the language used, and of course might be in error. Mr. Adams must be believed as uttering a solemn truth about which he could not err. Col. Pickering must yield the point as one, in which, in the absence of Mr. Adams' denial, he might honestly believe he had the right impression, but to which, under no circumstances, could he positively affirm.

A word more: In that very work, in which Col. Pickering gives his Report of Mr. Adams' speech—his "Review" of the Cunningham Correspondence—he has committed a very gross error upon a point, on which, in the station he occupied, he should have been exactly informed; and any inaccuracy in which, should justly impair our confidence where doubts might arise in regard to the correctness of other statements. In the 61st page of the "Review" referred to, Col. Pickering says: "In a little more than a year after turning out as the champion of the embargo, viz.: on the Fourth of March, 1809, Mr. Madison (it being the first day of his Presidency) nominated J. Q. Adams Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of the Emperor of Russia. *The Senate put their negative on the nomination.* But Mr. Madison, having called a special meeting of Congress in the fol-

lowing May, repeated the nomination, *and by a change in some votes*, the nomination was approved." Now it is true, that Mr. Madison, on the *Sixth* (not Fourth) of March, 1809, did nominate Mr. Adams for the mission to Russia; but *it is not true* that "*the Senate put their negative on the nomination.*" They did not act upon the nomination at all — but, on the contrary, on the 7th March, by a vote of 17 to 15, they "Resolved, That in the opinion of the Senate it was inexpedient at that time to appoint a Minister from the United States to the Court of Russia." Again: It is true, that at the extra session in the following May, Mr. Madison re-nominated Mr. Adams to the Russian mission; but *it is not true*, that the nomination was approved "*by a change in some votes.*" It was approved by the very strong vote of 19 to 7, the two Senators from Massachusetts, (Col. Pickering one of them,) the two from Connecticut, the two from Delaware, and one from North Carolina voting against it. Now, in the statement of Col. Pickering that the second nomination was approved "*by a change of some votes,*" it is quite evident, that he intends to convey the idea, that the difficulty in obtaining the Senate's approval of the nomination in the first instance, was *personal* with Mr. Adams, and not *public* as connected with the question of the expediency of the mission. Whether he was right in so intending, let the facts of the record, as I have given them, speak.

I now owe it to myself to say, that in what I have above stated, I make no attack upon the memory or character of Col. Pickering. I have the highest reverence for both; and in this, the study of my maturer years has only confirmed the lessons of my boyhood. But I would vindicate Mr. Adams' just fame from the effect of the Colonel's *inaccuracies*; and as the record proves him entirely out of the way, in regard to the nomination to the Russian mission, the inference is a fair one, that he might have been, and probably was, equally in error, in regard to the terms and meaning of Mr. Adams' Embargo speech.

## APPENDIX.

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### PROCEEDINGS OF THE BAR OF HAMILTON COUNTY.

At a meeting of the Bar of Hamilton County, Ohio, held in the Court Room of the Superior Court, on the 28th of February, 1848, for the adoption of suitable measures in honor of the late JOHN QUINCY ADAMS, Salmon P. Chase was called to the Chair, and Chas. L. Telford appointed Secretary.

On motion, a committee of five, consisting of Messrs. R. M. Corwine, W. R. Morris, Chas. L. Telford, Thos. J. Gallagher, and W. M. Corry, was appointed to make the necessary arrangements to carry into effect the object for which the meeting had been called, and to report at an adjourned meeting on the 1st of March.

At an adjourned meeting of the Bar of Hamilton County, held at the Court House on Wednesday, 1st of March, Mr. Chase resumed the Chair, and Mr. King was appointed Secretary.

Mr. Telford, from the Committee formerly appointed to report suitable marks of respect to the memory of the late John Quincy Adams, made the following report, which was adopted:

*Tribute of the Hamilton County Bar to the Memory of JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.*

The Bar of Hamilton County, while they unite with citizens of every class in sympathy for the common public loss which has befallen the country, in the death of John Quincy Adams, feel entitled to pay a special tribute to his memory as a great Publicist and Lawyer — to inscribe a name which has derived lustre from every study, upon the roll of the American Bar.

A career of public service, so long, brilliant and various, as that which has at last so suddenly closed, had a fit preparation in the study of the Law; and although the success and early distinction of a few years' practice at the Bar have been lost in the splendor of public service and renown, yet we are proud to trace the bias and the spirit of the Profession, in that love of Justice, of Liberty, and of Human Rights, which crowns the labors and the honors of his later life.

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In the department of Public International Law, his fame and services as a Lawyer were most conspicuous. In every grade of Diplomatic rank, as Minister abroad, Secretary of State, and President; as the Representative of the People in Congress; as the Advocate of the helpless captive at the Bar of the Supreme Court, he has illustrated the Political Jurisprudence of his age, and country, with a classic pen, and with a forensic Power and Eloquence, not surpassed in the Era of our great Revolutionary Names.

*Resolved*, That the Chairman of this meeting be instructed to present to the Courts of this County, a copy of this tribute to the memory of John Quincy Adams, with a request that it be entered upon their respective journals.

Mr. Corwine, from the same Committee, reported that William Greene, Esq., had been invited by the Committee to pronounce an Oration before the Bar on the Life and Character of Mr. Adams, at such time as might suit his engagements, and that Mr. Greene had accepted the invitation, and appointed Saturday, the 25th of March inst., as the time; which report was approved and adopted.

On motion of Mr. Strait, the same Committee was continued to make suitable arrangements.

S. P. CHASE, *Chairman*.

RUFUS KING, *Secretary*.

CINCINNATI, MARCH 1, 1848.

WILLIAM GREENE, Esq.:

*Dear Sir*:—The Committee appointed by the Bar of Hamilton County, to make suitable arrangements to show respect to the memory of the late John Quincy Adams, have directed me to ask you to pronounce an Oration on his Life and Character before the Bar, at such time as will suit your earliest convenience. We trust it may be agreeable to you to consent to accept the invitation, and shall be pleased to hear from you at an early day.

Yours truly,

R. M. CORWINE, *Chair'n Committee*.

CINCINNATI, MARCH 1st., 1848.

*Dear Sir*:—Though I have decided misgivings of my ability to do anything like proper justice to the occasion, I, nevertheless, accept the invitation of the Committee of the Bar, to pronounce the proposed Oration on the Life and Character of John Quincy Adams, as communicated to me by your note of this date. I would name Saturday, the 25th of the present month, as the day on which the duty shall be performed.

With great regard,

I am truly yours,  
W. GREENE.

R. M. CORWINE, Esq.,

*Chairman of the Committee, &c., &c.*



BAR CEREMONIES  
IN HONOR TO  
**JOHN QUINCY ADAMS,**  
MARCH 25,  
AT THE COLLEGE HALL.

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ORDER OF EXERCISES.

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The members of the Bar, Judges of the Courts, and Ministers of the Gospel, with the Orator of the Day, assembled at 7 o'clock, P. M., in the Merchants' Exchange, whence they proceeded, in the order designated by the Committee of Arrangements, to the Hall, and occupied the first twelve seats in front of the rostrum.

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*Music*—BY THE BRASS BAND.

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*Prayer*—BY THE REV. DR. RICE.

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*Oration*—BY WILLIAM GREENE, Esq.

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*Music.*

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*Prayer and Benediction*—BY THE REV. C. B. PARSONS.







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